

Appl. No. 09/966,064
Amdt. dated October 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
 - a CPU;
 - a main memory array coupled to the CPU;
 - ~~a first bus bridge coupling the CPU and main memory array;~~
 - ~~a primary expansion bus;~~
 - ~~a secondary expansion bus;~~
 - ~~a second bus bridge coupling the primary and secondary expansion bus;~~
 - a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the ~~secondary expansion bus~~ CPU,
where the ROM stores a first set of basic input output system (BIOS) programs, and further where the ROM stores a first set of operating system drivers; and
 - wherein at least one operating system driver of the first set of operating system drivers is read from the ROM during installation of an operating system for the computer system.
2. (Original) The computer system as defined claim 1 wherein the ROM further comprises:
 - said first set of BIOS programs associated with the first set of operating system drivers;
 - a second set of BIOS programs; and
 - a second set of the of the operating system drivers associated with the second set of BIOS programs.
3. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the first and second sets of BIOS programs are substantially identical.

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4. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the first and second sets of operating system drivers are substantially identical.

5. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 2 wherein the ROM further comprises an electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

6. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 1 wherein the ROM further comprises:

a redundant portion;

a non-redundant portion;

wherein the redundant portion of the ROM stores the first set of BIOS programs and a second set of BIOS programs; and

wherein the non-redundant portion of the ROM stores the first set of operating system drivers.

7. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 6 wherein the first and second set of BIOS programs are substantially identical.

8. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 6 wherein the ROM further comprises an electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

9. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
wherein the ROM further comprises an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM); and
wherein the EEPROM stores two substantially identical copies of the BIOS programs after installation of the operating system.

10. (Currently amended) ~~In a computer system a having read only memory (ROM), a method of storing hardware drivers to be installed during installation of an operating system, the A method comprising:~~

~~storing in the a ROM device of a computer system a basic input output system (BIOS) program; and~~

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storing in the ROM ~~the hardware drivers~~ for a plurality of operating systems.

11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~storing hardware drivers~~ as defined in claim 10 further comprising:

dividing the ROM into a redundant and non-redundant portions;
storing the BIOS program in the redundant portion of the ROM;
storing a second BIOS program in the redundant portion of the ROM; and
storing the hardware drivers in the non-redundant portion of the ROM.

12. (Currently amended) The method of ~~storing hardware drivers~~ as defined in claim 11 wherein the BIOS program and the second BIOS program are substantially the same.

13. (Currently amended) The method of ~~storing hardware drivers~~ as defined in claim 10 further comprising:

storing a first copy of the BIOS program in the ROM;
storing a first copy the hardware drivers in the ROM associated with the first copy of the BIOS program;
storing a second copy of the BIOS program in the ROM; and
storing a second copy of the hardware drivers in the ROM associated with the second copy of the BIOS program.

14. (Currently amended) The method of ~~storing hardware drivers~~ as defined in claim 10 further comprising:

storing the BIOS program being a first BIOS program in the ROM, the ROM being an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM);
storing the hardware drivers in the EEPROM;
copying one or more hardware drivers from the EEPROM;
erasing the hardware drivers from the EEPROM after the one or more hardware drivers have been copied; and

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flashing a second BIOS program to the EEPROM in place of the hardware drivers.

15. (Currently amended) The method of ~~storing hardware drivers as defined in claim 14 wherein the second BIOS program is substantially the same as the first BIOS program.~~

16. (Currently amended) ~~In a computer system having a read only memory (ROM) device storing basic input output system (BIOS) programs, a method of installing an operating system requiring an operating system driver on the computer system. A method comprising:~~

~~supplying the an operating system driver during the installation of the an operating system by copying the operating system driver from the ROM a read only memory (ROM) device comprising a basic input output system (BIOS) and operating system drivers for a plurality of operating systems.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method of ~~installing an operating system requiring an operating system driver as defined in claim 16 further comprising supplying the operating system driver from the ROM being an electrically erasable programmable read only memory.~~

18. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a microprocessor;

a main memory array coupled to the microprocessor;

~~— a first bus bridge coupling the microprocessor and main memory array;~~

~~— a primary expansion bus;~~

~~— a secondary expansion bus;~~

~~— a second bus bridge coupling the primary and secondary expansion bus;~~

a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the ~~secondary expansion bus~~ microprocessor; and

wherein the ROM further comprises:

a redundant portion;

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a non-redundant portion;
wherein the redundant portion of the ROM stores the first set and a second set of BIOS programs; and
wherein the non-redundant portion of the ROM stores the operating system drivers for a plurality of operating systems;
wherein at least one of the operating system drivers is read from the ROM during installation of an operating system for the computer system.

19. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 18 wherein the first and second sets of BIOS programs are substantially the same.

20. (Original) The computer system as defined in claim 19 wherein the ROM further comprises an electrically erasable programmable read only memory.

21. (Currently amended) ~~In a computer system having an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM) coupled to a bridge logic device, a method of storing operating system drivers for use during installation of an operating system, the A method comprising:~~

~~dividing the EEPROM an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM) into a redundant and non-redundant portions;~~

~~storing in the redundant portion of the EEPROM a first set of basic input output system (BIOS) programs and a second set of BIOS programs; and~~

~~storing in the non-redundant portion of the EEPROM the operating system drivers.~~

22. (Currently amended) The method ~~of storing operating system drivers~~ as defined in claim 21 wherein the first set of BIOS programs and the second set of BIOS programs are substantially the same.